A History of Ipswich Soccer

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Author's Note:

This is not meant to be a complete history of Ipswich Soccer – there are omissions and there may be some errors. I have tried to verify all facts I have been given, but the poverty of written information of the early days is most frustrating. From 1886 to 1890 inclusive, I have recorded all I could find on the micro-film library of the "Queensland Times", of those years. Even is 1902, "Old Sport" childed the 'British Football' clubs for no reports of matches being sent in to the paper. (The next week there was a report of the Booval Stars v. Montes Match). But one must consider those teams and their officials; they had worked on the Saturday morning, with the match in the afternoon, followed at times by a convivial social evening. So a trip to town from our now Eastern Suburbs, with the story before the "Queensland Times" office closed, was a problem with transport and roads as they were then.

I have relied on stories handed down from fathers to sons, and from those who have memories of the not so early days; and so for any omissions, they are purely unintentional, and I seek your indulgence.

There may be errors in the initials of some of the early players – I have copied them most carefully.

I have concentrated on the first 50 years – that is the area about which the least is known – and have 'Scurried hurriedly' over the last 35 years.

So to all those who have helped, by allowing me to probe their memories, and to those who supplied photos, go my sincere thanks. Unfortunately all the photos could not be used – a limited selection had to be made – and we regret that some people will be disappointed as a result.

And thanks, in particular, I must add to the "Queensland Times" for allowing me to use their micro-film library; and to Kim, their most helpful librarian; and to Tom Nimmo for extracts from his scrapbook; and to those others for their scrap books and old programmes.

And above all else, to the articles and reports of matches from the pen of "Old Sport", Tom Barker; his writings fascinated me.

So it is only with the help of these people, the living, and the dead, who wrote those long ago reports, that this booklet is possible.

Reg. Epshine

April, 1980.

A HISTORY OF IPSWICH SOCCER

The Beginning

Although Blackstone and Bundamba have both claimed the honour of being the first Ipswich soccer club, the first soccer match, ever, in Ipswich was played on the North Ipswich reserve on June 26th, 1886.

The report of the match taken from the files of the "Queensland Times", states:-

"The first football match played at Ipswich under the Anglo-Queensland Rules (the gamewas then not referred to as soccer – R.E.) came off on the cricket reserve on Saturday afternoon last, the contesting teams being Rovers of Bundamba and the Queenslanders of this town. Owing to the usual convincing ground being occupied with another match, this one played on the lower portion of the reserve - the end near the woollen factory. The ground was not in a good state by any means. Some of the stumps had just recently been removed, and the surface was very rough and muddy and in places, pools of water lay in the hollows. Though there were many persons present, the livelier game going on at the upper end seemed to have, by a long way, the greater attraction. Then the spectators were better acquainted with the Australian game, few seeming to properly understand the one recently introduced.

The teams too were new to the game, and it could not be expected that such exciting or interesting play was to be witnessed at their end of the ground as between the Ipswich and Brisbane men further up.

This game was played with eleven men a side. The goals placed at a distance of 120 yards from each other consisted of two posts 8 ft. high and 24 ft. apart with a cross bar on top. To obtain a goal, the ball was to be kicked between the posts and under the bar and nothing counts but goals. None of the players except the goalkeeper is allowed to 'handle' the ball, and if, in any way. the ball touches a player's hands, or a player's hands touch the ball, a free kick is allowed to the other side.

It seemed very natural to the players to put out their hands towards the ball, and a good many free kicks were allowed. While handling is not allowed, 'Head work' is, and at times it was amusing to watch the men jump at the ball and strike it with the head.

The fact that no umpire could be obtained militated against the game, and the players had to decide all questions that arose amongst themselves.

Hastie, who captained the Queenslanders, won the toss from M. Waugh (Dave Waugh believes this may have been his father's uncle A. Waugh – R.E.). J. Glasgow kicked off for the Rovers. Nothing particular occurred till within two minuted of half-time, when R. Stephens passed the ball to Tunstall and he kicked the first goal for the Queenslanders. About half an hour after the resumption the cry of 'hands' was raised by some of the Rovers who seemed to stop play for a free kick, but the other party played on and B. Stephens put the ball between the posts. It was however agreed that this should not count. Tunstall, nevertheless, put the sphere through properly a few minutes subsequently.

The Rovers then played up better, and Sneddon soon kicked a goal for them. Their captain followed up with another goal, thus equalising the score. As nothing more was added the game terminated is a draw.

Among the Rovers Waugh played a capital game, and Dobbie, Sneddon and Denham did good service. For the Blues Tunstall and Hastie played best, and were ably supported by Hudson, R. and J. Stephens and others."

Two other matches of the same year were (a) Bundamba Rovers v. Brisbane Swifts. The game was a draw and M. Waugh again gets a mention. (b) An exhibition match was played on the reserve between two Brisbane clubs Queen's Park Rangers and St. Andrews. The latter had three local players, one each from Ipswich, Walloon and Bundamba. Lebeter, from Brisbane, was among the scorers in a 3 all draw. (St. Andrews shortly after split up into two teams, Thistle and St. Andrews).

There is no record of any matches in 1887, but the game was certainly being played as an advertisement in the "Queensland Times" in that year stated:- "Footballs – newly imported – round or association shapes, sizes 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 – also insides for them". The storekeeper was Joseph Rose.

Then to 1888. "A team from Thistle club journeyed to Blackstone. It was the first match played by a Brisbane club at Blackstone, and was a very fast one. It excited a great amount of interest, as the large crowd of spectators present proved; and the game was very evenly contested."

The writer went on, "Blackstone scored first, and added a second before half-time; but Thistle with the wind in their favour, scored two goals in the first ten minutes of the second half. The game ended in a draw, with Thistle narrowly missing victory on one or two occasions". (No names of players were given, and the report referred to the Blackstone team as Rovers.)

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The second match was played on the Bundamba Racecourse (actually where the car park is now situated), and this was Bundamba's ground until the present site of the ground was cleared.

The match was between Bundamba Unions and Blackstone Rovers. Rovers sported red as their colours, Bundamba being in black and white. A goodly number of spectators were present. McMurtrie scored first for Bundamba, and then Archie Waugh, a back, took the ball up the field and passed to Gordon who gave Bundamba a 2 to 0 lead at half-time. The report stated:- "The game became exciting, and some of the players appeared to play the man rather than the ball," and was "occasionally rather rough". McMurtrie scored Bundamba's third goal, with Blackstone reducing the lead to make the final score 3 to 1, Lovell being their scorer.

On August 7th of the same year, St. Andrews, a Brisbane team, defeated a Bundamba Unions team by 4 goals to 2. A. Waugh, J. Lindsay and W. Lindsay played best for Bundamba who played with only ten men for most of the game – after one of their players was injured.

(Although the original spelling was BUNDANBA, I have used the now accepted spelling. R.E.)

Blackstone played originally across the creek from where the ground is now; in what was called Lewis Thomas' paddock, also the site of his Coolgardie shaft. Water became a problem in this pit and a drain had to be dug across the field, to run the water into the creek. So the coal owner cleared the present site of five miners' cottages, and the Blackstone club shifted to the new ground.

The ground which at one time was narrow and shorter than now, had some work done on it by miners during a strike some forty years ago; enlarging it and reducing the 'hill' on the creek side.

There is also a record of Lewis Thomas team playing on the old ground, against a Brisbane team for a supper.

The Blackstone ground is now the property of Coal-Stars. It was believed that Lewis Thomas had given the ground to the sporting clubs of Blackstone. but his son-in law actually sold the ground to Rovers in the 20's, and as an asset, it went to the amalgamated club, Coalstars.

There were breakaways from Blackstone – Callbacks, Battlers, and Montes, (and Blackstone even turned to Rugby League about 1912 – they still had a soccer team); and "Guinea" Halls astounded the League fans with his kicking – I believe one of his goal kicks not only went through the posts on No. 1 ground, but also those on No. 2. Perhaps there was a westerly wind.

Three of Blackstones early players were Johnny Lovell, Billy Wright and Jack Gambling. Andy Hamilton, a player of note was secretary for a time, and it was he who imported the first red and black jerseys from Scotland.

Blackstones 1912 team was Eli Jones, W. Patterson (killed in World War I), George Law, Joe Follett, Sandy Irvine, A. ('Podge') Perry, Jack Clewes, Garnet Burns, 'Giff' Evans, George Bullock, W. ('Guinea') Halls.

The Halls family of seven boys all played with Blackstone at times before World War I, although 'Guinea' was still playing in 1921, and Les, the youngest, came to the fore in the 20's. The other brothers were Jim ('Prickly'), Dave ('Dinkie'), Tom ('Quilly'), Albert ('Obney') and Jack ('Garky'). 'Guinea' gained State honours.

And now to Dinmore. 'Old Sport' wrote in 1912 that Bush Rats had been founded 24 years earlier – that puts them in 1888, 3rd after Bundamba (not Rangers) and Blackstone.

Two teams were founded in Dinmore at that time, Bush Rats up in the New Chum area, and the Reliance team from Hudson's Pottery. In passing there appears to have been quite a few teams from pits – Stafford Bros. (Dinmore), Wright's (Tivoli), and Lewis Thomas (Blackstone) had teams organized at their pits in those early days. Back to Dinmore – there was great rivalry between these two teams and it was only when Reliance folded, that Bush Rats moved to that ground. Joe Potts, now living at Tweed Heads, aged 90, in a letter to me said, "We fenced it with barbed wire (4 rows). I remember well that we christened it by playing Booval Stars; we charged sixpence and took 50 pounds".

When Dinmore Bush Rats first formed up they cleared a ground burning the timber, beyond the New Chum road bridge near Stafford Bros.' property.

"The naming of the club was discussed," stated Joe, "and all agreed, seeing that as they had worked in the dark with miners' lamps, that Bush Rats was the appropriate name".

Later the club moved its ground to near Bognuda's pottery, opposite Jim Tedman's house. Later they moved again, closer to the main highway. "It was not much of a success (as a ground), the soil was hard, and full of gravel, and the field was badly positioned in that it ran east-west," stated Joe Potts.

Tom Potts recalls seeing Bush Rats play in the Chum, in all white, shorts of knee length (and even longer), short black socks, Cossack boots, and shin pads outside the socks.

There were no football boots in those days – players tacked bars of leather on to the soles of their boots, to prevent slipping.

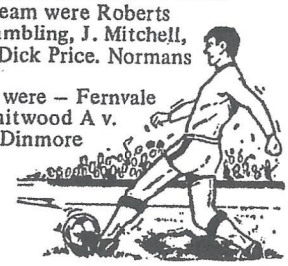
Dinmore appears to have been a most progressive club, as, in 1892, they joined with the Brisbane teams, Normans, Athletic (not the Ipswich Athletics), and South Brisbane in a four team Challenge Cup Competition.

From 1894, come these pars. In April Montes d. Booval Enterprises by 4 goals to 1. The second Bush Rats team played Booval Enterprises (Rats played two of their first team – Joe Skellern and W. Bailey), and defeated Booval by 1 goal to nil. H. Skellern was captain of Rats, and W. Jones of the Booval Team.

The Ipswich club had practice on the Reserve on Saturday May 4th; and Blackstone played Bush Rats, but there was no report of the match.

And Whitwood BII defeated Bundamba Rangers on Saturday May 19th. This is the first mention of Rangers and the report said it was the Rangers first game together. James Dobbie captained Rangers, and Dave Waugh scored two for Whitwood, and James Dobbie for Rangers. (I deduce that Rangers were formed in 1894, and the 1895 photo is the first one we have of them. R.E.)

Still in 1894 - 'Old Sport' himself played in a friendly match between Ipswich and Booval Enterprises on the Reserve. And Normans, a Brisbane team, played Blackstone on May 24th. There were 400 present and 'Old Sport' – Tom Barker – played as captain of Blackstone. Other members of that Blackstone team were Roberts (goalkeeper), Dick Gee, H. Gambling, J. Mitchell, Dobbie (no initial given) and Dick Price. Normans won 1 to Nil.



Other matches mentioned were – Fernvale played Booval Enterprises; Whitwood A v. Bush Rats at Ebbw Vale; and Dinmore v. Bundamba Rangers. (That Dinmore team would be the one using "Old Reliance" ground).

THE ORIGINAL BUSH RATS FOOTBALL TEAM – 1890.

Back Row (L-R): J. Campbell, M. Bailey, J. Besgrove, G. Duck, B. Campbell.
Middle Row: Jack Jeffrey, W. Duck, O. Coleman, W. Jeffrey.
Front Row: Joe Skellern, Joe Jeffrey, D. Franklin, W. Bailey.

1895

'Old Sport' reported on Saturday May 3rd, that Celtic Bush Rats are now Bush Rats once more and were to play a friendly match against Rosebanks (Brisbane) on Reliance ground. The visitors were taken underground at Whitwood mine to see a coal pit operating. Their guide was M. Bailey. The Rats won 6 to nil, the scorers being R. Campbell, A. Skellern, S. Stewart, D. Franklin, and J. Skellern. The sixth goal was from a goal mouth scrimmage. Three other Rats mentioned were J. Routledge, H. Hughes and J. Atherton.

There was a Hodgson Cup competition in that year, and quite a few games were played on a ground opposite the old site of the Racehorse Hotel. As far as I can gather, it was for B division clubs. The report of one such match, Montes v. Rangers won by Montes 2 to 0, said "it should be up to players to keep their tempers on the football field at any rate'", and went on, "in the second half some very unpleasant events occurred, and at times, it was difficult to tell who was playing as the spectators had spilled on to the ground."

In another of these cup matches between Montes and 2nd Bush Rats, the game was held up for quite some time in the second half, when the referee disallowed a goal headed in by a Rats' player, following a corner kick.

There was much argument between the referee, players, and spectators, and the game was resumed under protest. The referee, Jake Tapp who suffered remarks as "Chuck him over the fence", and " Pull the neck out of him", went on with the game as cool as a cucumber but had to call ot off with 15 minuted to go – darkness had set in. This 15 minuted was resumed the following Saturday, but there was no further score, Montes winning by 3 goals to 2.

Rangers played Fernvale, in the same competition, on Ferrets ground (the one opposite the hotel), and won by 5 to nil. Dave Gledson scored 2 in the first half, the other scorers being J. Lindsay and H. Desgrove. J. Lindsay was Rangers' captain and T. Maloney skippered Fernvale.

Fernvale protested over the result of a match with Rats, refereed by M. Bailey. The final score was 5 to 4 for Rats, but the Association after considering the protest, declared the result a draw.

Another desputed match (Hodgsons Cup) between 2nd Bush Ratsand Rangers had to be replayed at Booval.

The final played on June 29th saw Rats winners by 4 goals to 2. Their scorers were Gooch, T. Stewart 2 and W. Caddies, their captain; Rangers' goals came from J. Stafford and J. Dobbie.

In a Challenge Cup match, Rats d. Brisbane Athletics by 3 goals to 1. In that match Rats had the services of three Blackstone players, Dick Price, J. Muir and J. Mitchell. And in another Challenge Cup match at Dinmore, Rats and Rosebanks played a 2 all draw – scorers for Rats being S. Stewart, and J. Muir. Rats' team was W. Lindsay, J. Atherton, R. Price, H. Stewart, M. Bailey, R. Campbell, J. Skellern, J. Mitchell, S. Stewart, J. Muir and W. Bailey.

In another 1895 match, Bush Rats 4 d. Normans by 4 goals to 3. Rats' scorers being Sandy Stewart 2, Joe Skellern and W. Caddies.

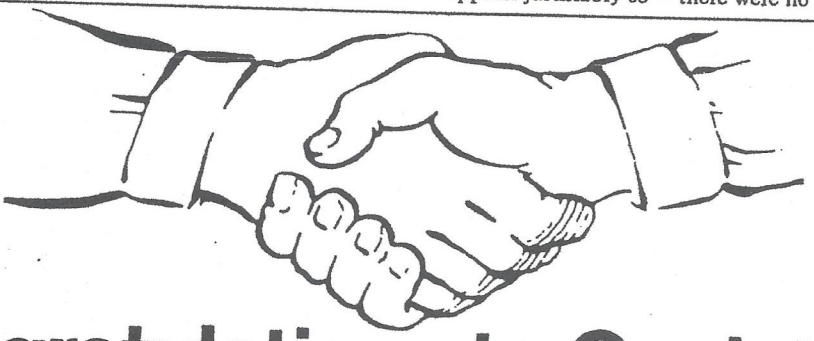
Two snippets from 1900. Rangers and Rats played a friendly match on the Whitwood cricket ground and Rats won by 3 to 1.

In another match, Royals played 2nd Rovers. Rovers won the match by 2 goals to nil, their captain being E. Woolley, with H. Schy captain of Royals.

1904

From the annual meeting of the I. & W.M.B.F.A. held in the Prince Alfred Hotel, and not well attended –"two interesting matches were played the previous year against Brisbane, Ipswich winning the home game, but losing in Brisbane." Reference was made to the many teams that had played in 1903, but no names were given.

Later 'Old Sport' stated "the British Football Association is backward in coming forward." And it appears justifiably so – there were no reports of any



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matches in the "Queensland Times" in that year concerning Stars, Rangers or Montes, all in existence at that time.

But there were reports of matches played at Dinmore by a correspondent called 'Spectator'. The Reliance, and Bush Rats teams two from Blackstone, Rovers A and B played in the Brisbane competition.

Some results were Reliance 3 d. Bush Rats 2; Rovers B d. Rangers (Brisbane) 10 to nil; Bush Rats d. Normans by 7 to nil. (The referee of this match was J. Routledge, and C. Bognuda and A. Jeffrey were linesmen.) Rovers A d. Milton 6 to nil; Reliance d. Markets at Pineapple paddock.

Two Reliance players were suspended as a result of an incident that occurred in their match with Markets. They were Quilpie (an aboriginal who played in Dinmore in those years) – out for the season, and V. Bognude got one month.

The Ipswich, or rather West Moreton Team, that played Brisbane at Pineapple paddock in 1904 was: E. Verrall, O. Watkins, W.L. Williams, J. Gambling, F. Hudson, J. Tedman, W. Randolf, T. Davis, J.W. Taylor, A. Verrall, P. Taylor.

'Old Sport' journeyed to Dinmore to see the match between Reliance and Rovers B and had this to say – "Reliance had a splendid ground, logs are conveniently placed alongside the field of play for sitting on – and the match had a homely atmosphere – there were mothers with their youndsters, fathers, sisters and brothers – and they engaged in good natured barracking."

Seasons started late at times in those early years; 1908 started on June 20th. In a letter to 'Old Sport', G. Livermore, secretary of the I. & W.M.B.F.A. stated that there were three grades competing that year, with Rats, Rangers, Rovers and Montes forming the A division; the B division team being Stars, Rosebells, Montes, Rovers and Bush Rats.

1912

It is impossible to chronicle the events of every year, so I chose this one as a sample. And it has given us some glorious recorded history from the pen of 'Old Sport'.

On April 20th, 1912, Bulimba Rangers and Blackstone Rovers played a friendly game as did Ebbw Vale and Athletics. Ebbw Vale were captained by S. Skellern, and Athletic by C. Livermore. W. Warrell and G. Sparkes scored for Ebbw Vale and A. Gibb for Athletic. The referee was Joe Skellern "who gave utmost satisfaction".

Some of the Ipswich Clubs joined as usual in with Brisbane and the fixture list for Saturday, May 4th, 1912, was Bush Rats v. Toowong (Dinmore), Wellington Rovers v. Ipswich (Pineapple paddock), Valley v. Eskgrove (New Farm), Bulimba v. Albion (Bulimba). Blackstone had the bye.

Old Sport asked pointedly, "Where are Bundamba Rangers?"

They played, however, in the Ipswich Competition with Athletics, Rosebells, Ipswich Workshops and Booval Stars.

A match Athletics v. Rangers played on Station Hill on Saturday May 11th resulted in a win for the former by 2 goals to 1. Athletics team – T. Sharpe, C. Kilpatrick, F. Shanks, G. Allen, W. Livermore, N. Bird, A. Gibb, A. Watkins, J. Allan, D. Malcolm, D. Waugh.

Rangers – A. Pringle, R. Livermore, J. Tapp, F.

THE RANGERS, BUNDAMBA – 1895.

Poulton, J. Mathewson, G. Jones, N. Kelly, A. Binnie, R. Black, O. Edwards, J. Williams.

The game was patronized by a larger number of spectators.

Old Sport had this to say, "British Association football is booming along all right – it is at its best for 20 years".

1912 also saw the selection of a Queensland team to go to New South Wales, Final matches were played on the Gabba; Ipswich and West Moreton and Toowoomba playing two Brisbane teams. (Note the name – the boundary of Ipswich in those days was the creek so all the area east of this creek was in the West Moreton.)

In the trial match, Ipswich was represented by J. McKennie, George Law, J. Burns, A. Shearer, J. Young, E. Dawes, P. Spence, G. Burns, G. Bullock, D. Potts, and A. Vernill. Ipswich won their match by the only goal, the scorer being G. Bullock; and McKenzie, Young, Law and Garnet Burns gained places in the Queensland team with G. Bullock as reserve. McKenzie and Young were from the Workshops team, the other three from Blackstone.

New South Wales visited Queensland in August of the same year, and two matches were played at the Showgroundion the 15th and 17th of August.

That Ipswich and West Moreton team created soccer history – it defeated New South Wales by 4 goals to 2 after New South Wales led at half time by 2 to 1. The local team was James McKenzie (Ipswich Railway), W. Patterson (Blackstone), Peter Spence (Railway), J. Irvine (Blackstone), J. Young (Railway Captain), J. Burns (Rats), A. Verrall (Rats). Garnet Burns (Blackstone), 'Giffy' Evans (Blackstone), Dan Potts (Rats), Alf Nunn (Rats).

Scorers for Ipswich were G. Evans, A. Nunn, D. Potts and G. Burns.

On the Saturday (17th), Queensland played New South Wales at the Showgrounds and Queensland went down by 3 goals to 1. Some heavy showers fell before the game, but the referee ruled the ground fit to play on. Ipswich had seven players in that Queensland team – McKenzie, Petterson, Irvine, Young, Verrall, G. Burns and Evans who scored Queensland's only goal. Old Sport in his report said that the Queensland team did not perform as well as the Ipswich team two days earlier. He was also very critical of the referee – Sammy Ross. The gate for that match was in dollars, $194.00.

Ipswich had previously played New South Wales on only one occasion before – in 1898 on the North Ipswich Reserve and were beaten then by 3 goals to 2. That Ipswich team was Tommy Morris (who played also in goal for Queensland), Sam Shelley, J. Routledge, J. Lucas, Andy Hamilton, A. Dobbie, H. Verrall, Joe Jeffery, Syd Skellern and George Marsh – only ten players – the other was a modest Tom Barker ('Old Sport') who was also a reserve for the Queensland team.

Still on Interstate Teams, we come to 1913 when a Queensland team went to New South Wales. Ipswich, whose soccer at this period was of a high standard, had eight players in the touring party – Dod Simpson, A. Verrall, G. Burns, T. Wade, Dan Potts, Peter Spence, Alec Gibb and T. Weller.

Then in 1914, there was another visit of a New South Wales team to Ipswich. The Ipswich team of T. Weller, W. Patterson, C.B. Pearce, G. Simpson, A. Heaton, A. Gibb, R. Scholes, G. Burns, T. Wade, D. Potts and W.J. Breslin defeated the visitors by 4 goals to 1, the Ipswich scorers being Burns and Potts, 2 each.

The report praised the magnificent play of the half-line, Simpson, Heaton and Gibb, and went on – "When Gibb robbed and fooled an opponent in such a manner he fairly brought the house down".

Only four Ipswich players went into the State team – Patterson, Gibb, Burns and Potts and 'Old Sport', ever loyal to Ipswich, said – "from those who saw the match with Brisbane a few weeks ago, as well as Saturday's match – any comment was needless." But Queensland did win 3 to 2 in Brisbane, and at the Showgrounds with Weller and Dod Simpson added to the team to replace two Brisbane players, the result was a scoreless draw.

And still in 1914 – Rangers who have appeared very little so far d. City by 6 to 1. Their team was Denton, Law, Kitching, Woolard, Heaton, Tapp, Miller, Murray, S. Bullock, G. Bullock, Dore.

Three other results at that week were – Bush Rats 1 d. Goodna 0; Booval 2 d. St. Stephens; and Blackstone 3 d. Walloon 0.

The Ebbw Vale ground was first used by the Whitwood team. Dinmore was a prolific breeding ground for soccer – Reliance, Bush Rats, and two Whitwood teams.

I would place the beginning of St. Helens in the late 1900's, after a discussion with a remarkable gentleman, Mr. Jas. Jones, aged 94. He was quite certain that Booval Stars preceded Saints. But it is quite possible that Saints could have been a little later – there are no reports of any matches with a St. Helen's team up to 1908, but then there are no reports of Bundamba, Montes, and Booval Stars either. These teams with others would have been playing under the Ipswich and West Moreton British Football Association; whereas Rats, Rovers and Reliance were playing in the Queensland British Football Association.

There is no doubt that a St. Helens team existed before World War 1 as both Alf Perrett and Bill Warrell played for it. I believe the beginning of St. Helens was as late as 1912, as from late information I received, Alf Perrett and Bill Warrell were foundation members of that team, which was probably a breakaway team from Rosebells.

Booval Stars were founded in 1902. I have been able

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to find two of their matches played in the year. The first was against Montes – Stars winning by 3 goals to 1. Scorers for Stars were Wal Yates, A. Shelton and G. Hillard. H. Owens scored for Montes and their captains were Stars – G. Richards, Montes – J. Follett.

Stars also played Eskgroves at Bundamba – the result, a 2 all draw. Stars' scorers being A. Shelton and W.R. (Bill) Yates. Stars' linesmen for both matches were Peter Erskine and Frank Smith.

Although this match was played at Bundamba, Stars had their first ground near the present St. John's Church at Booval, and later shifted to Gedge's paddock, near the Dudleigh Street overbridge.

They had premiership success in 1906, 1909 and 1910 and also won the Brooks Cup for three years in succession. (J.W. Brooks was an Ipswich jeweller.)

Some of the foundation members of the 1902 Stars were Arthur Gedge, Abe Tibbits, Gib Reason, G.B. Jackson, Wal & Bill Yates and Peter Erskine.

As a senior team in 1st division they disappeared just after World War II and their ground was sold to Booval Swifts Rugby League in 1950: The club was reborn again as a junior team with Bob Sparkes at the helm. And in more recent years the club has been playing in lower senior divisions with Merv Molloy, a guiding force.

Another team of this era was Ipswich City. The personnel of this team in one pre World War 1 match was Hawkins, Watkins, Parslow, Cassidy, Docherty (that would be Union's Paul McLean's grandfather. R.E.), Hansen, Bowie, Marshall, O'Hagan and Cameron. After the war the Breslin boys P. and W., and Wingrove were members of the Ipswich City team.

Goodna formed a team prior to World War 1. Garnet Burns, a miner had gone to work at the hospital where there were quite few English mirgrants as warders. With the backing of the Medical Superintendent, as Englishman, a team was formed, and Garnet was able to persuade both 'Dad' and 'Lick' Verrall to join with him. George Burrows, an outstanding centre half, and Dick Scholes, from the Redbank Meat Works, were two other players of the team.

There is also a record of the Ipswich and West Moreton British Football Association playing a match Ipswich v. Bulimba Rangers to mark the opening of the association's two new fields on the Bundamba Racecourse. As far as I can ascertain, this would have been shortly before 1910. The Ipswich team was W. Follett, K. Kitching (I think that should have been J.), D. Flannery, R. Tapp, F. Evans, J. Pryde, G. Bullock, A. Shanks, I. Bullock (S?), T. Kennedy, P. Taylor.

The report stated many of the Bulimba team were mirgrants from England and their style of play was much siperior to that of the locals who, however, won this match by 4 goals to 3.

Looking back to the first team. There is no doubt that Bundamba preceded Blackstone, with Dinmore trailing them. The date of Dinmore, I think, must be fixed at 1888. 'Old Sport', in 1912 stated that Bush Rats had been founded 24 years earlier. That makes the date, 1888. I believe 'Old Sport' was himself a player for Blackstone at that time; and the very first Queensland team that went to New South Wales in 1890, contains the name, T. Barker. The 1890 photo of Bush Rats states it is the original Bush Rats team – I think they had been playing for at least two years before they decided they were photogenic. So I decided on 1888, as Tom Barker having played against Rats, gives it authenticity.

But what about this team, the 'Queenslanders of this town'? The names, Hastie, Tunstall and Stephens are those of early Ipswich families. Did the team emanate from the Railway Wokrshops? Did they precede Rovers of Bundamba? What eventually became of them? And finally, what is the significance in the name Bundamba Unions?

Questions, I doubt that will ever be answered.

WEST MORETON TEAM, 1903.

(Left to right)

Back Row: ? Hurst, Ernie Verrall, John Ross, Joe Kitching, C. Shelley, G. Furlong.
Middle Row: Tom Marker ('Old Sport' of 'Q.T.'), George Jackson, Jim Williams, T. Gillow, Oliver Watkins, Alf Perrett.
Front Row: Wal Yates, Ave Tibbits, W. (Bill) Wright, A. Shelton, Bill Yates.

This team played Brisbane at the Woolloongabba Cricket Ground, July 18, 1903.

World War 1 to 1930

Passing over the War years, when the playing of fixtures was curtailed, the years prior to 1921 saw a completely local competition – teams being from Blackstone, Dinmore, Bundamba, St. Helens, Ipswich City and Booval Stars.

The three Pedley boys, 'Spokes', Jimmy and Percy, with Cliff Gedge, Eli Jones, Dave Hamilton, and the Mathewsons, Bill ('Tanky' who later went to Newcastle to play), and Bob, formed the nucleus of this Booval team which used Stafford's paddock opposite the old site of the Racehorse Hotel as their home ground.

But in 1921, it was back to Brisbane for some clubs, and the passing from the scene of others. Bundamba and Dinmore were granted 1st Division status and Blackstone went to 2nd Division: Stars, Saints and City disappeared – some of Stars players to Rangers, and some of Saints to Rats.

Blackstone later won promotion to 1st Division, their 1921 team being 'Tros' Elliott, Dave Hamilton, 'Toddles' Clarkson, Norman Edwards, Bob Mathewson, John Woolley, Toddy Edwards, Bonar Williams, Bill Halls, Bob McQueen and Arty Williams.

While in the 2nd Division, Blackstone caused a major upset in 1923 by defeating Thistle in a Tristram Shield semi final – the report said – the success of Blackstone was without the semblance of a fluke, and a large contingent from Ipswich wildly cheered their team.

Blackstone went on to a complete sweep of all trophies in 1926. They suffered only one defeat, by Bundamba from a W. Oliver penalty. That Blackstone team was Les Halls, 'Poona' Edwards, Roy Woolley Jack Williams, Arthur Hawkins, John Woolley, Toddy Edwards, Cec Nunn, Vic Hamilton, 'Craddie' Evans (who at one time held the Queensland long jump record) and Artie Williams. (That forward line was probably the fastest ever in Ipswich). Another of the Williams' brothers who played in that team was 'Abby' later better known as the Ipswich medico, Dr. M.A. Williams.

Rats who dominated the competitions just before and after 1920 were served by Tom Wade, Mick Burns, Geo. Sparkes, Vern Rumble, Sandy Stewart, Len Warrell, Eric Nunn, John Hainsworth, Jack Potts, and Bill Warrell.

Some of Bundamba's players in the same period were R. Miller, Jim McKay, Bill Lindsay, Bill Oliver, Arthur Lebeter, Jack Routledge, Mosie Burton, and Alec Gibb.

In the mid 20's in a Rats and Rangers match which resulted in a 1 all draw the teams were:

RANGERS:

J. Smith, J. Routledge, J. Lindsay, J. Kitching, P. Jarvis, S. Teasdale, H. Greenhill, W. McDowell, W. Oliver, A. Pedley, R. Urpeth (Urpeth was a "Q.T." journalist).

RATS:

C. Gedge, W. Burns, M. Burns, J. Willians, L. Warrell, A. Stewart, J. Edwards, E. Rumble, J. Potts, J. Rogers, A. Williams.

And in 1927 Blackstone "were badly outclassed by Latrobe". The report added 'that their defence of L. Halls, J. Skellen and R. Woolley could not be blamed – the halves were the weakest link'.

This period also saw the re-emergence of St. Helens. They had reformed as a Junior club in 1924, and two years later entered the 2nd Division, by the winning of which they gained promotion to 1st division. Some of that team were Pete Sander, Jim Henderson, Col Warrell, Ron Skellen, Jim Greenhill, Artie Edwards and Jim Kenny. But the inexperience of the youngsters was too great a hurdle and they were relegated.

However, the club recruited a completely new team which gained promotion again making four Ipswich teams in the 8 team Brisbane and Ipswich competition. That saints team of 1929 was J. Williams, W. Stirling, E. Wilson, A. Edwards, R. Skellern, R. Erskine, J. Greenhill, J. Potts, W. McCrea, J. Kenny, C. McEwan, J. Henderson and A. Wilson.

Newer players were taking the place of the stalwart of the early 20's and some that come to mind are Henry Seeney, Les Jeffrey, Jack Newman, Rus Buchanan, 'Jacko' Kitching and Roy Woolley.

It was also in the 20's that Ipswich showed their domination by taking out honours, Rats in '21, Rangers in '22, Rovers in '26, Rangers in '27, and the Tristram Shield, (a Knockout Competition) came to Ipswich on at least five occasions:

It was during the mid 20's that the signing of Mick Burns and Jack Potts by Thistle for their Tristram Shield final against Latrobe caused 'great consternation'. But Latrobe won by 4 goals to 1.

One inter city match drew a crowd of 2,000 to Bundamba to see Ipswich d. Brisbane by 4 goals to nil. The scorers for Ipswich were W. McDowall (2), J. Potts, J. Edwards (penalty).

And after an interesting match in 1924 a Brisbane writer had this to say of the Bundamba ground – 'It is absolutely uneven, chockful of bumps, and ruts, and assuredly unfit for football'. He added that the Ipswich players' only assets were speed and dash'.(Ipswich, presumably, won this match. R.E.).

Then came the 'split' of 1929. It came towards the end of the season. It was caused by the proposed non allocation of a share of the gate takings to the Ipswich clubs – three of whom were drawn to play in semi-finals at the Gabba. One must remember that in those days, 'gates' were the life-blood of the clubs – no 'chook' raffles or doubles – they existed on a shoe string budget. And that dispute did tremendous harm to the game – the two Cities went their own way. (Thistle did continue to play in Ipswich for a time) – seasoned players retired, Brisbane lost the use of the Gabba and playing standards suffered.

The 20's saw the first of Ipswich's internationals, Alec Gibb, Cliff Gedge, Eric Nunn, Toddy Edwards, Mosie Burton, and Les Halls. It also marked the visits of overseas clubs and a great spreading of junior football. Some of the junior clubs were Redbank Seekers, Jacarandas and Pompadours of Booval, Raceview Royals, Dinmore Wanderers who also played in 2nd Division, Northtown United of North Ipswich, Rosebells, Caledonians

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(Walloon), Rosewood Ramblers and Queens Park Rangers (from Eastern Heights) as well as Rats, Rovers, Rangers and Saints.

The controlling body in Ipswich in that era was the Ipswich & West Moreton British Football Association, some of its personnel being Alec Gibb, Bob Kemp, Alan Harley, Isaac Lonie, A. Buglar, Tom Smith, and Fergie Allan. And in the early 20's this association staged a Works' Competition at the end of the 1922 season. Teams were formed at mines, and factories, the competition being won by "Bluebells", from the Booval Butter Factory. Team members were Tom Hainsworth, Micky Campbell, Percy Pedley, Percy Statham, Vic Nunn, Tom Thayer, Dan McNamee, Artie Murphy, Tibby McAlan, Percy Walker and Jack Perrett.

1930 to World War II

With the Ipswich & West Moreton British Football Association filling the gap with games to finish the '29 season, they continued with a purely local competition, until the rift was healed in the later 30's, and Brisbane and Ipswich clubs again came together in weekly competition.

Rats, Rovers, Rangers and Saints continued in action with a mostly new younger brigade of players – there were new senior clubs, Raceview Royals, Rosebells from Bergin's Hill, (this club had worked its way up from junior ranks and had the James brothers, the Thorburns and 'Buller' Kitching among its players – it finally merged with Bundamba Rangers in 1936 with Paul Sander as chairman) and Booval Stars.

Stars reborn again in 1930; some of its players in those years were Jim Donaldson, Geo. Newlands, Tom Greene, Bob Erskine, Bill Nason, Wal Johnston and Andy Duce. The club began with a new ground where Woolworth's building now stands at Booval. Much work and high hopes went into that ground (it was levelled with a horse drawn scoop – no earth moving machinery in those days), but all to no avail. Black soil does not lend itself to a football playing surface; and added to that, a spring broke out in one corner of the ground. The ground was eventually sold to Booval Swifts' Rugby League Club in 1950.

In the early years of the 30's, Oxley, and Brisbane Thistle participated in the Ipswich fixtures:

An Ipswich team that defeated Brisbane in 1930 was W. Sander, H. Seeney, Bob Erskine, J. Newman, R. Buchanan, J. Kitching, J. Potts, D. Crichton, A. Hawkins, C. Warrell and J. Henderson.

Then in 1931, an Australian team to Java had four Ipswich representatives, Bill Oliver, Rus Buchanan, Jim Donaldson and Dick James, (the leading goal scorer with 7).

In 1932, a Queensland team took part in the very fast interstate carnival in Sydney (five states participated), and there were nine Ipswich players in the squad – Jim Williams, 'Jacko' Kitching, Rus Buchanan, Jack Newman, Col Warrell, 'Buller' Kitching, Roy Woolley, Jim Donaldson and Dick James. They came second last in the carnival, being thrashed by New South Wales by 9 goals to 1. But some of those New South Wales players were Crowhurst, Geo. Smith, O'Connor, McNabb and Coolahan – all Australian 'greats'.

DINMORE BUSH RATS, 1905–06.

Back Row (L-R):	J. Campbell, W. Dawes, H. Brittain, J. Jordan (Treasurer).
Second Row:	W. Tait, T. Young, R. Jeffrey, A. Wilson, W. Jordan (Delegate),
Third Row:	A. Tedman, M. Bognuda (Vice-President), D. McInnes (President), H.R. Webb (Secretary), H. George (Vice-President), ? Verrall.
Front Row:	J. Tedman, G. Burns, M. Randolph, A. Jordan.

It was also in the mid 30's that Ipswich played Bundaberg at Bundamba. Ipswich were territorially superior throughout the game – it was practically all played in Bundaberg's half – but F. Judd, Bundy's keeper, stopped everything fired at him – on his form that day, he'd even have stopped a coal train coming round the loop line. But Ipswich had its revenge – it won the return match in Bundaberg. Manager of that Ipswich team was Micky Campbell – a Rangers' player just after the war, a stint with St.Helens, and an administrator of the 30's.

The 1935 Ipswich team that played New South Wales was R. Kruger, T. Blackburn, R. Woolley, H. Seeney. T. Gorman, J. Tapp, P. Dann, J. Pitcairn, A. Duce, R. Kitching and J. Donaldson.

Two years later in the State Squad were nine from Ipswich, A. Duce, J. Pitcairn, L. Gibb, Bob Erskine, E. Daws, D. Roderick, E. Petie, 'Fat' Kitching and C. Brittain.

In 1939 in the Australia v. Palestine match in Brisbane, were five locals – Lawrie, Roderick, Gibb, 'Fat' Kitching and Donaldson; but in the Sydney test, only Kitching was selected.

A Look at the points table after ten games in the '39 season lists the teams in this order – Booval, Y.M.C.A., Bundamba, Eastern Suburbs, Latrobe, St. Helens, Corinthians, Blackstone. There was no Bush Rats team and, in passing, it was in the late 30's that Booval won a Tristram Shield.

This period saw the rise of more internationals from Ipswich - Oliver, Donaldson, James R., Buchanan, Petie, Malcomson W., Shanks, and Gibb L., Lawrie and Roderick.

Then came the war – a practically complete shut down of senior football – Rangers' ground was used by the army as was the racecourse.

However, St. Helens organised a team – called Ipswich Essentials composed of players from what were called reserved occupations (miners, many Railway workshops employees). They played matches against Brisbane teams similarly situated.

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World War II to 1980

The first 15 years of this period is, undoubtedly, the golden years of Ipswich soccer. It began in 1944 with Blackstone winning the Tristram Shield by defeating St. Helens at Bundamba, Frank Wooley and Lex Gibb being the respective captains. After a practically pointless season in '46, Booval Stars folded, leaving St. Helens, Bundamba and Blackstone as senior Ipswich teams.

They were later joined by a reformed Bush Rats which won its way from 2nd to 1st Division, after tussles with Wattles from Blackstone (Col and Ron Hughes) and Caledonians (Wal Robbins) from Brisbane. And then went on to premiership honours in 1950, giving us State players in Morrie Dawes (while still in 2nd division), Merv. Peck, D. Wishart, Dave Morris, and Les McCrea.

Earlier St. Helens had been premiers in '47 and '48, and then from '53 to '57, Rovers, Rats, Rangers and Saints were premiers for the five years. They were followed by Oxley who had obtained some of Dinmore's players. Rovers in '53 also won the Tristram Shield, as did Saints in '47, '48 and '56. 1956 was St. Helens' golden year – they won the lot.

One Tristram Shield final between St. Helens and Bundamba was played under floodlight at the Exhibition Ground in the 40's, and was won by Saints 4 to 3 after extra time.

This was the era that gave us the experience of Dan Roderick, the return of Bob Lawrie to Ipswich, and the maturing of Lex Gibb, together with the rise to international stardom of Gordon Nunn, Cliff Sander, Ron Coleman, Ron Hughes, Don Leo, Bill Mitchell, Norm Rule, Graham Kathage, Duncan McKenna, Brian Vogler, Al Warren, Graham Kruger, Les McCrea, Ross Kelly, Alan Pitcairn, and the ever to be remembered cousins, Col and Spencer Kitching, and later Ian Johnston and Gary Wilkins.

1948 saw Ipswich players Lawrie, Gibb and Nunn touring New Zealand, with 'Bunny' scoring 15 goals on the tour. Two years later saw Lawire (as captain) and Nunn off to South Africa and then Ipswich was well represented in the team to New Caledonia in 1950 with Pete Sander as manager and players, Cliff Sander, Ron Coleman, Ron Hughes, and Bill Mitchell.

Against Rapid-Austria in 1955 there were 10 Ipswich players in the state squad – seven actually played in the team, and another of the Kitching clan, Bill, was manager.

Many other Ipswich players gained State honours such was the domination of the Ipswich clubs. There were eight Ipswich players in the Queensland team that played the Scottish Hearts of Midlothian, under lights, at the Exhibition Grounds in 1955. It was the only match in Australia that the Hearts did not win – it was a 3 all draw – and the scorers; Col Kitching (2) and Spencer Kitching.

In 1955 there were seven from Ipswich in the Queensland team against South Africa, and three from Ipswich, Nunn, Col Kitching and Sander, played in the Test match with Warren and S. Kitching as reserves.

Some results of matches in the 50's to show our superiority were:- Ipswich d. Brisbane 8 to 1; in a Kruger Cup match in Brisbane Ipswich won by 11 to 2 (Col Kitching notched 5), and in club matches – Saints d. Easts 8 to 0 at Ebbw Vale; Saints d. Annerley 6 to 0 and 8 to 4, and Saints d. Y.M.C.A. 10 to 1. These were the 'palmy' days of Col Kitching and Bunny Nunn.

This era saw another family leave its mark on Ipswich football – the Hughes family. From one branch came Col, Ron and Daryl (Ron achieved international honours) and from another branch came Rob, Graham ('Charlie'), Len and George – these contributed much to Coalstars.

Then came the dramatic change – Ipswich players were lured to the Brisbane ethnic clubs with money to spend – the birth of professionalism in Queensland soccer. The two Kitchings and Sander were among the earliest to be persuaded, and they were followed by Vogler, Warren, McKenna, Kathage, McCrea, Kruger, Kelly, and Ian Johnston.

The loss of experienced players saw a complete reversal, at times, of results. Y.M.C.A. d. Blackstone 14 to 1; Hellenic d. Dinmore 7 to 0; Azzuri d. Blackstone 7 to

2; and Merton d. Saints 4 to 1.

Dinmore was the first team to go. At first they merged with Redbank and then this club merged with St. Helens in 1966 to form St. Helens United. This did not save Saints – they were relegated to 2nd division; but later Hellenic gave Col Kitching, Topher, McKenna, and McCrea back to Saints. This lifted them back to 1st division and in 1967, at the Exhibition Ground, they won the Ampol Cup beating Coalstars by 4 goals to 2. Col Kitching was hurt late in this match and when the representation was being made, he was in the Casualty ward if the Royal Brisbane Hospital.

Saints were again relegated several years later, but under coach, Al Warren, they weathered the set back, and he brought them back to top company again.

Blackstone and Bundamba also felt the 'pinch' – they amalgamated in 1964, to form a new club, Coalstars – the name being the brainchild of Bob Lawrie's wife, Joyce, whose dad was associated with Rangers in the 20's.

With the return of Graham Kathage, Coalstars won the Ampol Cup in 1965, and did finish in the final four in the 70's but they too were relegated and were saved from 2nd division by the formation of the State League and the South East Queensland competition in 1979.

This era saw the gaining of international honours by Ross Kelly – he went to Sydney for a period; Ian Johnston went to the near east with an Australian team; Gary Wilkins, although he played with Hollandia, is Ipswich born and bred, and had a season with Dinmore – Redbank before gaining State and international honours.

The last few years have seen a spreading of the code. Goodna has developed a thriving club, with senior teams in the lower grades as in the case with Booval Stars. Ipswich City has a strong under age group and fields a lower division senior team which it is hoped will eventually cater for its young players. Leichhardt has also a strong junior sention and further afield in the country, Laidley, is progressing steadily also with 'under age' teams.

BLACKSTONE ROVERS – 1907

Back Row (L-R):	T. Salisbury, –, W. Dawson.
Third Row:	–, G.B. Jackson, –, A. Perry, –.
Second Row:	W. Halls, A. Foote, W. Williams, G. Law, J. Edwards, R. Jones.
Front Row:	–. D. Halls. P. Taylor. –.

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Visits of Interstate and International Teams

Ipswich early had visits from New South Wales teams in 1898, 1912 and 1914 – these are noted elsewhere.

And then in the 20's came the first of the international teams – New Zealand, China (three times), Canada and CzechoSlovakia.

All of these games were played on the North Ipswich reserve as was the memorable match – England v. Ipswich in 1925 – the first visit of an English professional side to Australia and the only one to visit Ipswich. The visitors, understandingly, won by 3 goals to nil, and Wal McDowall was judged by the English manager to be the best Ipswich player for which he received a gold medal.

That Ipswich team was – Les Halls; Jack Routledge; Mick Burns; Jack Williams; Len Warrell; Sam Teasdale; Toddy Edwards; Wal McDowall; Jack Potts; Ern Rumble; and Arty Williams. 'Spokes' Pedley was in the original selection, but was unable to play. In the match Queensland v. Englishman, – it was played in atrocious conditions – England won 11 to 0 – the Exhibition Ground was like a swamp. M. Burns, J. Edwards and J. Potts were the only Ipswichians to play in that match, McDowall and Teasdale withdrawing at the last minute.

A report on the Ipswich v. Canada match stated that Canada played brilliant football in the 1st half, but were bustled off their game in the 2nd half and were rarely in the picture, with play becoming very willing. One incident is noted. Dan Potts passed to Jack Potts, who sent the ball on to Tom Hainsworth who headed into the goalie's arms. Edwards ('Toddy') charged the big custodian, Mosher, and knocked him over. This pleased the crowd, and it was enthusuastic in its applause. Goalkeepers then were not protected as they are today.

The 1933 match between Ipswich and New Zealand had 'some moments of brilliance'. That Ipswich team was J. Williams; M. Shanks; C. Nunn; J. Newman; Mason; J. Greenhill; E. Dawes; C. Rossow; 'Fat' Kitching; C. Warrell; J. Donaldson. The scorers for Ipswich were Warrell (3), Dawes and Rossow; and the referee was 'Mosie' Burton.

Five years later at the reserve were the barefooted Indians. They played without boots – nine of them, against Ipswich – they did wear a type of elastic ankle guard. That Ipswich team was T. Greene; Bob Erskine; T. Blackburn; J. Pitcairn; D. Roderick; T. Malcomson; M. Dale; E. Young; A. Duce; 'Fat' Kitching and J. Donaldson.

South Africa played Ipswich at the reserve. This was the first and only soccer match broadcast in full in Ipswich (4IP). The ABC on some occasions at Bundamba have Len Todd give some short periods of description.

In 1949 Ipswich saw the Yugo Slav team (Hajduk-Split) in action, at Bundamba, against a Queensland team. The Slavs won by 4 goals to nil. This match was unique in that it was the first official Sunday match played in Soccer in Ipswich – it drew a tremendous crowd, and Ipswich fans witnessed, to them, a completely new concept of soccer.

The last international side to play in Ipswich was the South China team in 1955; they played a Queensland team, with Queensland winning by 3 goals to 2, the scorers being C. Kitching (2) and G. Nunn. Other Ipswich players in that team were Don Leo, Al Warren, Cliff Sander and Alan Pitcairn.

It is also worth recording that in the Queensland team that played the Austrian Rapid team in 1955 were seven Ipswich players. They were Leo, Warren, Sander, S. Kitching, Nunn, C. Kitching, A. Pitcairn.

Ipswich in the 20's received visits from New South Wales and obtained fairly adequate representation in Queensland teams. In one match on the Gabba Toddy Edwards at outside right performed brilliantly to give Jock May some excellent crosses giving Queensland victory.

In the 30's more state cups came to Ipswich because Ipswich was recognised officially by the 'powers that be'; and in the very early 30's Queensland defeated a New South Wales side on the reserve by 6 goals to 3. The match was played in heavy rain, the ground was cocered with water, but Queensland played an outstanding game. There were nine Ipswich players in that team – Les Halls, Bill Oliver, Roy Woolley, Rus Buchanan, Eric Nunn, Jack Potts, Bill James, 'Buller' Kitching and Col Warrell.

In the second game, at Davies Park, the score was 7 to 2 in Queensland's favour; with Les Halls being replaced by that well remembered Thistle's keeper, Jimmy Perrotte.

But then came some big hidings from New South Sales until 1938 when, with the healing of the 'split', Queensland had regained some prestige – a match in Ipswich in 1939 saw New South Wales d. Queensland by 4 to 3.

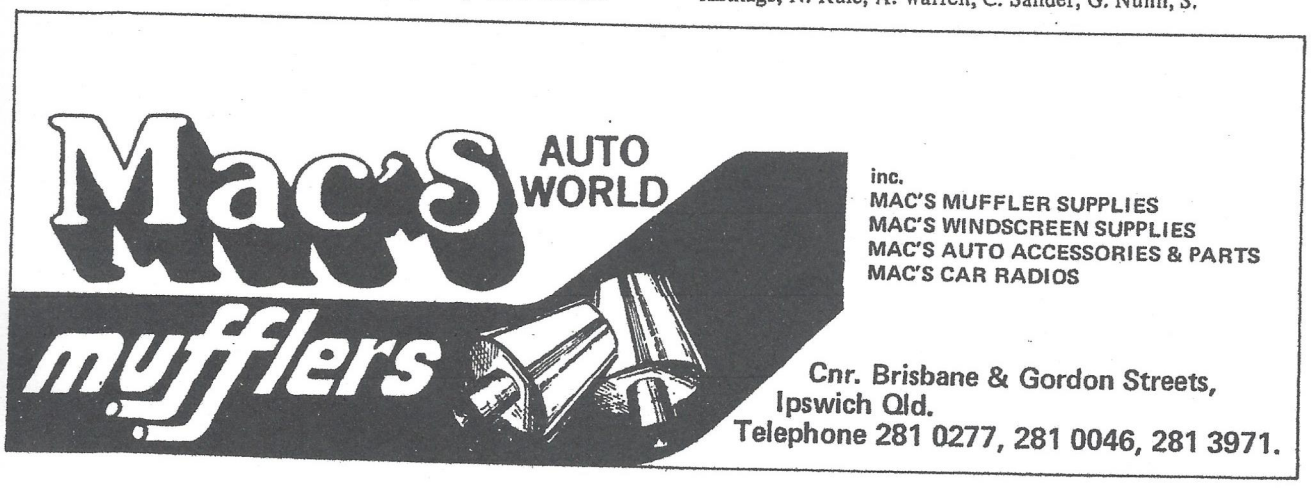
Following the war, in 1946, Ipswich fans looked on, in dismay, when New South Wales thrashed Queensland at Bundamba by 10 goals to 2. "J.E.E." of the 'Queensland Times' stated – "it was one of the most bumble-footed displays on record by a Queensland team". But in fairness that New South Wales team was led by that goal scoring wizard, Reg Date; and he had wingers Cunningham and Stewart to help him.

The last visit of a New South Wales team to Ipswich was in 1950. New South Wales had defeated Queensland on the Saturday, But on the Monday, at Bundamba, Queensland defeated the 'blues' by 3 goals to 2. The scorers were Bruce, Hughes, and Vidas. Other Ipswich players in that Queensland team were W. Mitchell, M. Newlands, R. Coleman, L. Gibb and M. Dawes – making seven in all.

A report of the match stated – "Bill Mitchel gave one of the soundest goal keeping exhibitions ever witnessed at Bundamba", and went on, "Lex Gibb was the brains behind the Queensland win".

And in 1956, in two matches on the Gabba, Queensland d. New South Wales by 2 to 1, and 6 to 2. In the first match 'Bunny' Nunn and Spencer Kitching were the scorers, with 'Bunny' scoring 3 in the second game and Spencer one.

That 1956 team had eight players from Ipswich – G. Kathage, N. Rule, A. Warren, C. Sander, G. Nunn, S.



Kitching, C. Kitching and B. Vogler.

Results of matches played in Ipswich by International teams:

1922	Ipswich 4 d. China 2
1923	New Zealand 4 d. Ipswich 2
1924	Canada 2 d. Ipswich 0
1925	England 3 d. Ipswich 0
1927	Ipswich 2 d. China 0
1927	Czecho-Slovakia 5 d. Ipswich 3
1933	Ipswich 5 d. New Zealand 3
1938	India 5 d. Ipswich 3
1947	South Africa 5 d. Ipswich 0
1949	Yugo-Slavia 4 d. Queensland 0
1955	Queensland 3 d. South China 2

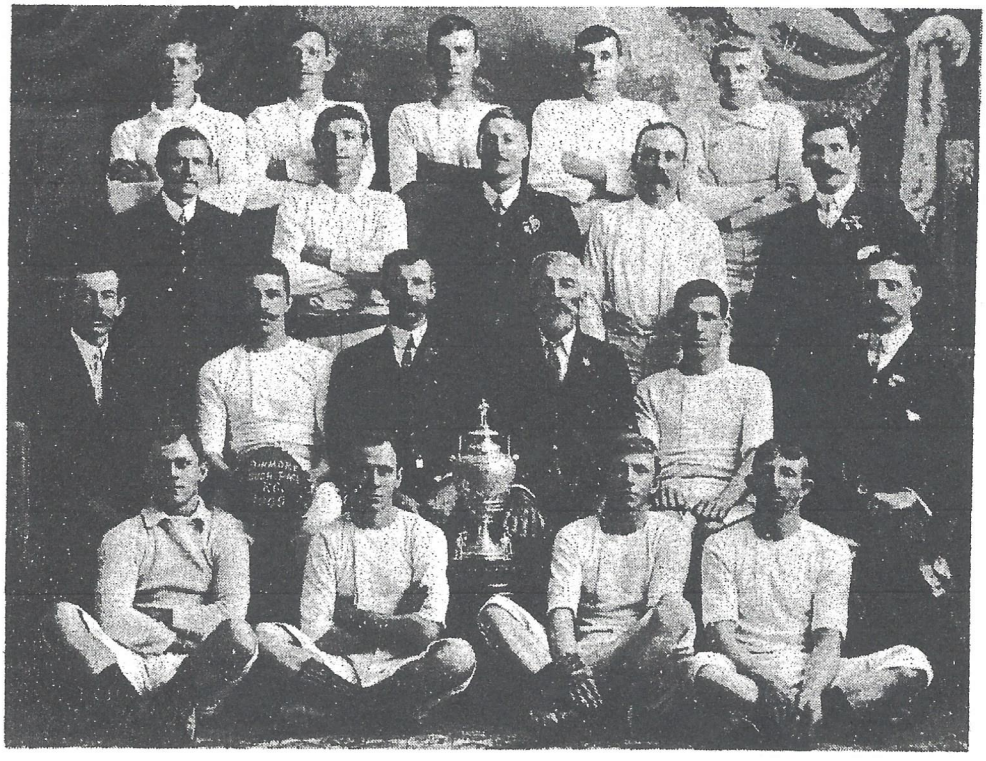
BOOVAL STARS 1909 — Premiers 1906, 1909, 1910 (I & WMBFA). Winners of Brooks Cup 1907—8—9.

Back Row (L-R):
—
—
W. Erskine (Spitz)
Jim Russell
Frank Smith

Third Row:
Peter Erskine
—
—
—
J. Richards.

Second Row:
—
—
Arthur Gedge
W.G. Cantle
(Licencee of Race-horse Hotel)
J. Pryde (Capt.)
Alec Archibald.

Front Row:
—
W. Dowse
—
—



DINMORE BUSH RATS, 1909 —

Top Row (L-R):
A. Shearer
A. Tedman
W. Rolls
E. Dawes
N. Randolph.

Second Row:
J. Potts (Selector)
G. Burns
T. Hudson (Delegate)
A. Wilson
W. Dawes (Treasurer).

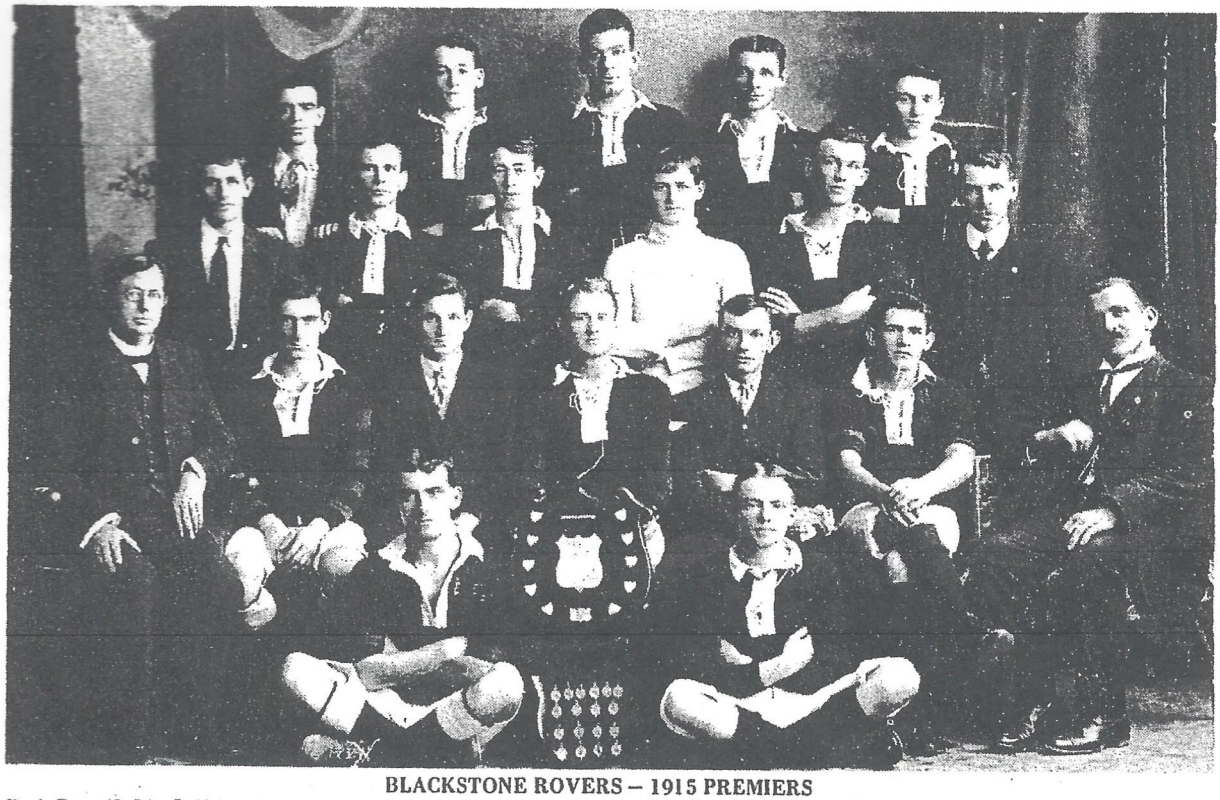
Third Row:
D. Gledson (Vice. Pres.)
T. Young (Capt.)
M. Bailey (President)
J. Stafford (Patron)
J. Tedman
W. Jordan (Sec'y.).

Front Row:
A. Jordan
J. Jordan
G. Jones
J. Campbell

I. & W.M.B.F.A. EXECUTIVE AND TEAM THAT DEFEATED N.S.W., AUGUST 8TH, 1914, BY 4 GOALS TO 1

Back Row (L-R): I. Lonie, A. Shearer, V. Finimore, J. Sharp, T. Weller, T. Sharp (Chairman), J. Potts, R. Kemp (Referee).
Middle Row: W. Scott, W. Kerr (Treasurer), A. Gibb, W. Paterson, G. Simpson (Captain), G. Burns, D. potts, T.W. Crane (Hon. Sec.).
Front Row: A. Heaton, R. Scholes, T. Wade, J. Breslin, C.H. Pearce.

DINMORE BUSH RATS – 1915



BLACKSTONE ROVERS – 1915 PREMIERS

Back Row (L-R): J. Halls (Chairman), G. Hill, F. Elson, A. Perry, J. Follett.
Second Row: W. Evans (Selector), W. Halls (Treasurer), C. Davies, W. Jones, Private A.E. Law, Jas. Halls (Selector).
Front Row: R.H. Lewis (Vice President), J. Pedley, T.G. Bowen (President), Private W. Paterson (Captain), G. Reeks (Selector)
G. Evans (Secretary), Jas. Law (Vice President). In Front: Geo. W. Law, A. Halls.

BUSH RATS – 1920 (UNDEFEATED PREMIERS)

Back Row (L-R): A. Stewart, T. Hainsworth, G. Greenham, F. Weatherhog, J. Williams.
Second Row: R. Roach, V. Rumble, W. Nunn (Vice President), J. Hainsworth (Vice President), T. Morris, R. Tait.
Front Row: D. Morris (V.P.), A. Burns (Vice Captain), J. Potts (Secretary), D. Potts (Captain), A. Stewart (Patron), E. Rumble, N. Bailey (V.P.).

BLACKSTONE ROVERS – 1926.

Back Row (L-R):	L. Raive, T. Morgan (Life Member), F. McMahon, J. Richards, J. Clarkson, H. Tite.
Second Row:	J. Greenland, J. Davis (Selector), V. Hamilton, L. Halls, J. Edwards, M.A. Williams, R. Jones (Life Member).
Third Row:	Robt Jones (Life Member), S. Bentham, F. Bartlett, J. McMahon (Trainer), W. Evans (Selector), John Jones (Vice President).
Sitting:	F. Parsons (President), B. Dobbie (Hon. Secretary), J. Williams (Vice Captain), N. Edwards (Captain), J. Woolley, W. Woolley (Treasurer and Selector), R. Dobbie (Life Member).
In Front:	C. Nunn, A. Hawkins, R. Woolley, F. Poulton, A. Williams.
Inset:	J.H. Taylor (Trainer).

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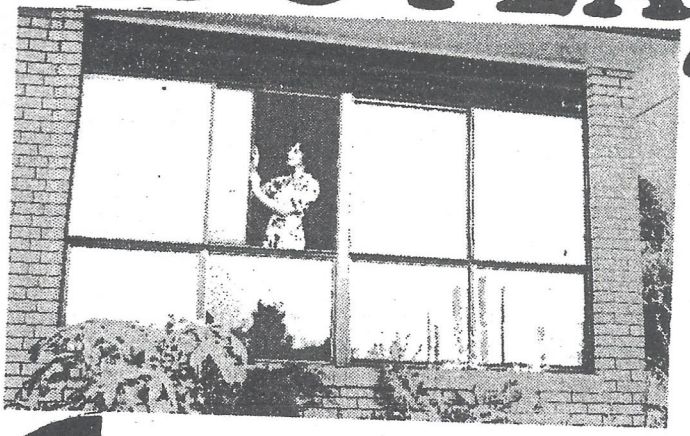

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BUNDAMBA RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB – PREMIERS 1937 AND 1938, WINNERS OF TRISTRAM CUP
SITTING (L-R): J. Lindsay (Vice. Pres.), H. Townsend, J.G. Pearce (President), D. Roderick (Captain), S. Robinson (Secretary), H. Greenhill, T. Potts (Vice. Pres.). SECOND ROW: W. Dale (Trainer), G. Dale, W. Wilson, W. James (Vice. Capt.), W. James, W. Oliver, J. Kitching, R. Murphy. THIRD ROW: J. Allan (Treasurer), R. Clarke, L. Gibb, D. Nunn, A. Kitching, R. Creighton, D. Campbell (Delegate). BACK ROW: G. Jackson (Linesman), A. Green, J. Townsend, S. Bullock. SITTING IN FRONT: G. Taylor, G. Oliver, S. Kitching, G. Allan.

Father and son both represented Australia. This historic photo shows internationals Alex (left) with his son Lex discussing the game they both played so well.

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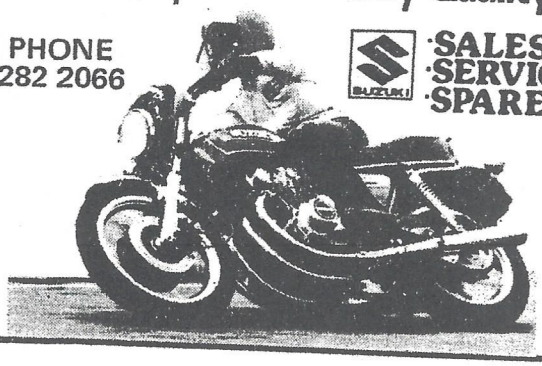

Roy Woolley, playing for Blackstone Rovers at Lang Park in 1937.

The Gibbs

Alec, his sons Lex, Alan, Alf and Grandson "Buddy" have all made a tremendous contribution to Ipswich soccer.

Alec at first played Junior football with Musselburgh in Scotland, and migrating to Australia a few years before World War 1, he first played with Bundamba Athletic, and then to Bundamba Rangers. He gained intercity and interstate honours at left half almost immediately, and climaxed his career by captaining the first Australian Team to tour New Zealand in 1921. Alec actually finished his playing career with a Brisbane lower grade club, South Brisbane Scottish.

His playing days over, he turned to the administrative side of the game and in the 20's became chairman of the Ipswich and West Moreton British Football Association, and an Ipswich, State, and Australian selector, and also acted as manager of representative teams.

Lex, the eldest of the sons, first played with an Ipswich Junior team, Alphas at outside left. He first played senior football with Bundamba Rangers in 1937, and after two seasons with Latrobe (Brisbane), returned to Ipswich to St. Helens. He first played for Queensland in 1937 and went on to play for Australia against the English Amateurs in 1937, and then India, Palestine, China and also toured New Zealand in 1948. Bob Lawrie and Gordon Nunn were team mates on that trip.

Alf played for Bundamba after World War ll, and 'repped' for Queensland from 1948 to 1953. He also played for Queensland as a schoolboy.

Alan was the least successful of the boys – he also played for Bundamba as a centre half and gained Ipswich selection. He later turned his efforts to soccer writer for the "Queensland Times", and also served as a state selector.

The Gibb family, to me, must surely be one of the sporting greats – Alec's two daughters were also State representatives: Margaret (Vigoro and Basket Ball – now Netball), and Mary (Netball).

In addition to that Mary's daughter, Andrea gained State selection as an athlete and Lex's son "Buddy" also has won a Queensland Jersey, as an inside left.

The Woolleys

With their back fence only a goal kick from Rovers' ground, it is no wonder that the members of this family served that club so well. The dad of them all, Ern Woolley, Sr., was a Union player.

Walter, the eldest son, did not play – but he served as an administrator – but his sons Dudley, Raymond, and Morris served tha club well. Dudley, as a junior gained State honours. The other brothers were John (half back) of the 20's; Roy (full back) whose career extended from the early 20's right into the 30's and who gained State selection; Harry (a half); Frank (full back); Ern Jr. ('Pully') – an interstate schoolboy of the 20's and the only one to play with a club other than Blackstone – he had a short spell with Saints; Alan (left winger) – he was an interstate player at both schoolboy and senior level; and Keith (inside forward).

Ray's son, Errol, Played with Bush Rats and it is 'Roy's' lament "that there are now no Woolley's playing soccer".

The Kitchings

A name synonymous with the history of soccer in Ipswich. The Kitching soccer tradition was founded by two coal mining brothers, Joe and Adam both playing for Bundamba Rangers in the early years of this century. Joe's sons Cedric, G.R. ('Fat'), Ross, and Dave, also played with Bundamba, with 'Fat' representing Australia at inside left, but finished his playing career as a full back. Fat's sons, Wally and George, also played with Bundamba.

All of Adam's family played, also with Bundamba. They included Joe (who later went to Brisbane Thistle), 'Jacko' (1920's to 1930's), Adam, and Harold who turned to Rugby League after his father told him he was too rough

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to play soccer. Two of 'Jacko's' sons also played in recent years, Marvin and Wayne.

Another branch of the family yielded Colin, Keith, and Graham, all brothers. All three represented Queensland as Juniors with Colin. (Bundamba, Blackstone, St. Helens, and Hellenic) gaining international honours as a centre forward. Two of Colin's sons, Ricky (Colstars) and Jon (St. Helens) now play.

Spencer (Bundamba, and Azzuri, now Brisbane City), also gained international status, while his father Alec ('Bulle') (Rosebells and Bundamba) also played for Queensland. Spencer's son, Murray, is currently in the Ipswich United (State League) squad.

And gleaned from J.E.E.'s "Queensland Times" column of the 40's – Joe Kitching at the age of 49 played his last game for Rangers as a goalkeeper – (the year probably, 1919. R.E.).

The Nunns

These came from several families at Dinmore and Booval – all related.

The first to make his mark as a player was Alf – the original "Bunny". He played for Rats and, as a winger, for Ipswich against New South Wales in 1912.

Dick Nunn's sons, Roy, Vic, Arn, and Cec all played a part, Cec being a State player. Vic's sons, Gordon and Doug, both played with Saints, Gordon ('Bunny') being the greatest of the Nunns. A centreforward of outstanding goal scoring ability, he played in 16 Test Matches for Australia, as well as 11 international games, scoring 18 goals for his country.

(A snippet from the past, I have been given is that Bunny's grandfather Jim Dobbie of the early 1890's was a strong 'shooter').

From the Dinmore area came Eric (an International and Interstate left half; he took Alec Gibb's place in the Queensland team in the 20's), his brothers Bill, Frank, and Dud, the last named playing with Saints as an outside left. Eric also served as an interstate slector in the 1950's.

The Verralls

A Dinmore family, this is a name first associated with the Rats over 70 years ago. The first were George, Herb, Ern ("Dad"), a goal keeper who played at times without boots, and Arthur ("Lick"), an outside left.

In the 40's and 50's the name reappears when Bush Rats played in 2nd division and after winning the premiership returned to 1st division. Names we find here are Cec, Col, Lloyd, Alan and Les. Les was most unfortunate – he had been selected in the Australian team to go to New Caledonia, but southern interests decreed that Queensland had too many players in the Australian side, and Les was the one dropped. (In this matter, the selectors from Ipswich, who had helped select the team were not consulted.)

BUNDAMBA RANGERS – PREMIERS 1922

Back Row (L-R): H. Powell (Secretary), J. Routledge, A. Hales (Trainer), A. Heaton, J. Allan.
Second Row: R. Murphy, A. Smith, C. Gedge, W. Lindsay, P. Pedley, J. McKay, J. Smith (Treasurer).
Front Row: W. Routledge, J. Pedley, A. Pedley, A. Gibb (Capt.), M. Burton, A. Lebeter, T. Heaton.
Insets: W. Mathewson, P. Hamilton (President), G. Long.

G. ('Dod') Simpson

A scottish mirgrant from East Wemyss, Fife, Dod came to Australia some 70 years ago. A miner, he first worked on the Newcastle field and represented New South Wales. Coming to Queensland he worked at Howard and Ipswich and soon gained Ipswich and State representations as a half back – and so is most likely to have been the first player in any code to represent the two states. (He played with Bush Rats.)

With the outbreak of World War 1, he returned to his native Scotland, enlisted in the Black Watch regiment while serving with which he won the Military Medal.

He returned to Australia in the early 20's, and lost his life as a result of a gas explosion in Bob Lawries' dad's Klondyke Colliery at North Ipswich in the 1930's.

Dan Potts

"Dan Potts was one of the greatest inside forwards ever in the State" – the words of Eric Nunn who played his early football under Dan's leadership and who later played for Australia and became a State selector.

Dan began his senior career when only 17, with Rats before World War 1, and finished as a player in 1925.

He not only captained Rats and Ipswich, but was an almost permanent fixture in the Queensland team for a period of 11 years as an inside left – such was his ability. He went to New South Wales five times with Queensland teams, some as captain, as well as making countless appearances at home, for Ipswich and Queensland.

Dan did not achieve international status – visits of international teams did not commence until the last year or two of his career, but Alex Gibb once stated that Dan's omission from the team he captained to New Zealand was a 'grave error'.

The Potts family have left their mark in Ipswich's early soccer – they were co-owners of a Rosewood colliery – Bill Potts, a right half and a long distance thrower of a throw in – John and Joe who both served long terms as secretary of Rats – Bob and Tom, staunch supporters – and Bill's son, Jack, who played centre forward for Ipswich against the English 1926 team, and went on to State honours.

Tom Wade

London born, of small stature and somewhat bandy-legged, Tommy made his presence felt in Ipswich before World War 1. A centre forward, he was the leader of Dinmore's forward line and won interstate honours in 1913. Like Gedge he ended his playing as a goal keeper – one remembers his restless pacing of the goal line while his team was attacking.

'Toddy' Edwards (J.E.

One of Queensland's greats of the 20's, Toddy was a right winger of outstanding and crowd pleasing ability. Blessed with a turn of speed, he had a lethal left foot which he used to score many a penalty. Tod began his career with Blackstone and first gained State honours in 1921 not only representing Queensland on many occasions thereafter, but also gained international honours in the mid 20's. He had a spell of one season with Bundamba, and a year with Corrinal on the New South Wales Coast; and completed his playing career with Blackstone.

In the mid 30's Tod turned to refereeing and gained international honours in this field, refereeing the match English Amateurs against Australia at the Echibition Ground in 1937. (That English team contained Bernard Joy and Stan Eastham (called 'baggy pants' by the press and who later returned to Queensland after the war to play for a short time).

Toddy is also a life member of the Queensland Schools Soccer Association – the only non-teacher to be so - and this for his services to school soccer at Blackstone; and still on occasions he takes the whistle for school boy matches at Blackstone.

Tom Hainsworth

Tom played centre forward for all of his senior career, for the great Ipswich team of the 1920's, Dinmore Bush Rats. As leader of an attacking forward line, he had no peer and went on to represent Queensland in that position in 1921. The "Rats" forward line of that era was John Hainsworth, Ern Rumble, Tom Hainsworth, Dan Potts and Bill Warrell.

Tom was coaxed out of retirement in 1928 to play for St. Helens to get tnem back to 1st Division status, which they succeeded in doing, and, until his passing a few years ago, was a regular spectator at Saint's home matches.

Cliff Gedge

Cliff first played for Queensland as a schoolboy in 1913 on a tour to New South Wales. After World War 1, he was a centre half and a full back for Booval Stars. He then went to Rangers where he played with great success as a full back, until he suffered a knee injury. Cliff gained internatilnal honours and I think was the first Ipswich born soccer player to do so.

When his knee recovered he turned to goal keeping, a position he filled so admirably for Bush Rats in the later 20's.

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Alf ('Spokes') Pedley

A Booval lad, he first played for Dinmore as a junior before World War 1. He was overseas with the A.I.F. and on his return, he played first for Dinmore and then with the reformed Booval Stars team. With the entry of two Ipswich clubs into the Senior Brisbane competition, he joined Bundamba, and played as an inside forward, representing Queensland in that position. A superbly fit athlete, he went on to captain Bundamba; his one failure was his lack of shooting ability.

'Spokes' finished his playing career with Dinmore Bush Rats. He not only excelled at soccer but once swam into second place in the Queensland Swimming Association's prestigious three mile swim in the Bremer River, and was a regular competitor in the athletic events conducted half a century and more ago at the Miners' Sports held annually on the Bundamba Racecourse on the then King's birthday holiday.

Jim Donaldson

A product of Silkstone State School, as was Rus Buchanan, Jim first played as a junior with Raceview Royals, and entered senior football with Booval Stars in 1930. An outside left, with a good left foot shot, and tricky footwork, he soon won International honours, and toured Java with an Australian team in 1931. He made a reappearance for the Queensland team in 1937 and again played for Australia against Palestine in 1939.

A feature of Jimmy's play was his accurate corner kicking, and at times his ability to score direct by curling the ball into the top corner. And while with Stars, he and Bill Nason formed a formidable left wing duo. With the folding of Stars, Jimmy completed his playing career with Bundamba.

Cliff Sander

A left half of outstanding ability – played for Saint Helens in 1948 at the age of 17 and continued with them until 1955. He then went to Azzuri (now Brisbane City), then a second division team. He and Spencer Kitching were the first players to be lured from Ipswich. The initial approach to Saint Helens was made at a match at Blackstone, between Saints and Rovers, when Ian Brusasco and another Azzuri official made contact with Pete Sander, Saints' Charman, on the creek side of the ground, to request permission to negotiate with Cliff.

Cliff early in his career went on to Ipswich, Queensland and Australian honours playing for his country 18 times.

Brian Vogler

An outside left of the 50's "Chookie" turned from Rugby League where he played Bulimba Cup at five-eighth. His robust style of football soon gained him intercity honours, and being quick to learn he also played for Australia; and after being lured to Hellenic in Brisbane, came back to Ipswich to Saint Helens to play as a 'stopper' before retiring.

Al Warren

A product of Blackstone football, Al quickly rose to interstate and international honours as a defensive player. He was outstanding in his head work – his height helped. Al has turned to coaching and successfully nurtured Saints back to 1st Division, after a lean period in the club some years ago; and is currently coaching the Ipswich United Team, in which his son, Wayne, is a defender.

R. (Bob) Lawrie

Bob first represented Ipswich as a schoolboy, and then graduated through Blackstone's lower grades very rapidly, such was his football skills, and in 1937, in his first year in senior football, he gained intercity, interstate, and international honours – playing for Australia against the Palestinian team.

Bob played at centre half for Australia, against the 1941 Chinese team at the Brisbane Exhibition Ground, and scored a memorable goal from a free kick taken well outside the penalty area.

The escalation of World War II saw him serve with the R.A.A.F., and, while in the United Kingdom, made appearances with the London Club, Brentford.

On his return to his homeland, he first played for the Sturt Club in South Australia, then with the Leichhardt Club in Sydney, and returning to Ipswich, played with Bundamba Rangers until his retirement, except for a short spell as player coach with the Brisbane Club, Bulimba Rangers.

In all, Bob played 24 tests for Australia, being captain in 12, and was captain of the Australian Team which toured South Africa, so successfully in 1950.

A former school teacher, (he has now retired), Lawrie has played an active part of the administration of school scooer in Ipswich and Brisbane.

His two sons have made their mark, Glen with Bundamba, and Ian, now with Philips Soccer League Squad. Ian had also gained international standing, playing for Australia in Indonesia, in an under 23 team. And so the Lawries, Bob and Ian, join the Gibbs, Alec and Lex, in being two families with father and son, internationals.

Ipswich and the Olympic Games

On only one occasion has Australia competed in soccer at the Olympic Games – in Melbourne, 1956. Ipswich was represented in that Australian team by Al Warren, Cliff Sander, Col Kitching and Brian Vogler.

And another Ipswichite, Bob ('Baker') Jones, was appointed as one of the Soccer officials.

Kruger Cup

This cup, to mark the supremacy of Ipswich or Brisbane in intercity contests, was first played for in the late 1930's. The cup was donated by the sawmilling brothers, Percy and Ted. Quite a few of the family had played themselves, Perc, Norm, Ron and Ron's sons Graham and Murray.

In the earlier years, there were always two matches played, one in each city; but after the Federation took over, with the exodus of Ipswich players to Brisbane clubs, the competition lapsed for several years.

It was re-introduced with players being selected on a residential basis, but on only rare occasions did more than one match in a season take place; and some of these were at night under lights. These matches did, however, serve one useful purpose. Defeats of Brisbane by Ipswich forced recognition of some players who went on to State honours – to name a few Mark Walter, Chas Matters, Phil Sunderland, Barry Payne, Jim McCabe and Ian Davis.

The Kruger Cup competition has now lapsed – the present Federation finding that in Brisbane, the match had little drawing power.

Criticism of Queensland Teams

Extract – 'Brisbane Telegraph' September 6th, 1923.

The Queensland Team to play against China had four Ipswich players – Eric Nunn, J. Williams ('Fatty), Toddy Edwards and Tom Hainsworth.

'Right Hall' had this to say – "There are two surprise omissions – Alec Gibb and Gedge – the more I go into the matter the more I am amazed at their exclusion".

He went on – "Nunn, of the Bush Rats, who has been selected as left half, undoubtedly played a great game against Bundamba, the other Saturday. It does seem strange that Nunn, if considered good enough to replace Gibb did not come under the eye of the selectors for either the New Zealand or New South Wales fixtures. Nunn did not even get a place in the Ipswich teams and yet he replaces a clever and experienced left half like Gibb".

Concerning Gedge 'Right Half' said "Surely the selectors do not argue that Harris (who was Gedge's replacement) is a better back than Gedge".

Extracts from a Brisbane Newspaper in 1937

"Queensland gave New South Wales a football lesson in the interstate match at the Exhibition Grounds and recorded their first victory for four years, by 4 goals to 2".

This Queensland team had six Ipswich players – Lawrie, Roderick, Gibb, "Fat" Kitching, Donaldson and Merv Dale, and the coaches were Alec Gibb and John Peebles.

The report went on "On his form Lex Gibb, the Queensland left half, should be on of the first men chosen for Australia. It is a long time since soccer supporters have seen anything finer than his display. His accurate passes to Donaldson and Kitching paved the way to more than one goal."

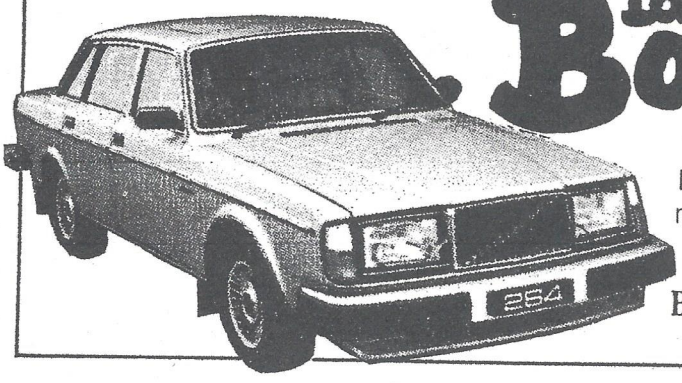
"Another to show excellent form was Kitching, the inside left. He proved that he was the best player in the State in that position. He was a tireless worker, and always placed the ball to the best advantage."

Making a reappearance for Queensland – "Jim Donaldson showed that he is still a force to be reckoned with – and his centres left little to be desired."

"Roderick played sterling football in the halves. He was always in the thick of things and played a big part in keeping the New South Wales forwards quiet."

"Big things were expected of Lawrie who was playing in his first big game, but he did not show his usual form. He is such a cool player, however, that he should be given every encouragement."

The writer wasn't impressed by Merv Dale, but the selectors thought otherwise by retaining him for the second match.



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School Football

Competition school football had its beginnings well before World War 1, the controlling body being the Ipswich and West Moreton British Football Association. "Old Sport" reported that in those days, Dinmore school was a very strong centre.

After the war, the main centres were the schools in the eastern suburbs with Bundamba the nursery of many internationals.

In the 1920's teachers formed a sub-committee of the Ipswich and West Moreton British Football Association, to look after the code, with Ted Freer, Gordon Harley, and myself forming the nucleus. Since that time teachers have continued to control the game in Ipswich; some even with no soccer experience (Jack Short at Raceview and Bill Stoodley at Silkstone).

Ipswich also gained a very effective say in the running of the Queensland body – Bertie Duce, Col Hogg, myself being forerunners with later Bob Lawrie.

The code has spread and now is currently being played in practically every primary school as well as the secondary schools in the city.

Ladies Football

This is now a recognised section of the game and in Ipswich – there are four clubs fielding ladies' teams – Coalstars, Saint Helens, Ipswich City, and Leichhardt Eagles. Bush Rats did have a team but circumstances have caused the club to disband.

However, the very first Ladies' Soccer match played here was 60 years ago, and was staged on the Bundamba racecourse – the field was inside the racing track.

The patrons normally sat in the Grandstand, but, the crowd to this ladies' match was so great, that they streamed across the track, and under the running rails, to stand several deep all round the ground.

The first team to enter the Brisbane Competition was Coalstars in 1965, and in 1976 won the Premiership and Grand Final in the first year of the South Queensland Womens Soccer Association.

The other clubs have mainly competed in the lower grades, but have won honours for themselves and promotion.

Six girls have won interstate honours – the two Barclay girls Gail and Michelle, Desley Kluppel (nee Penman), Anne Marie Hirsch, Beverley Watt, and Kath Mochrie.

Church Union Soccer

Before World War 1, there existed a St. Stephens team, in Ipswich – I believe Bob Lawrie Sr. and Dod Simpson played with it; and the Silkstone Presbyterians had a junior minor team in 1925.

Sunday football:– on one occasion in the late 20's, a Booval junior team, 'quietly' played a friendly match with a Brisbane team, on a Sunday afternoon in Cameron Park.

The next Sunday following a legitimate complaint to the City Council, the Ipswich police bicycle patrol made a visit to the park – but found nobody there.

In the mid 30's, a Latrobe team (during the 'split') visited Bundamba and played a friendly game on a Sunday afternoon to help a fund raising effort for the widow of 'Windy' Bell, one of their players, killed in a car accident.

Then the Yugo-Slav team, in 1949, played a Queensland team at Bundamba on a Sunday. This was the first official Sunday match in Ipswich:

With the change of many matches to Sunday, an association was formed in Brisbane in 1971, to cater for players wiching to retain Sunday as a aday of worship – Norm Rule and Eric Jones were foundation members of this body and Eric is still one of its driving forces in Ipswich.

The Blackstone Welsh Church and the Bundamba Salvation Army were the first to field teams. Church Soccer has grown – the strongest centres in Ipswich now being Blackstone Welsh and Raceview Congregationals – the latter having developed its own playing field.

Miners' Federation Cup

This was a cup competed for by teams of miners from various centres on the New South Wales coalfields.

Ipswich in the early 50's mounted a challenge. Dick James was a prominent Miners Union Official at the time; and a local team made the trip to Newcastle and to the 'consternation' of the southerners came back with the cup.

A return match the following year however at Bundamba saw the trophy returned to New South Wales.

Members of that Miners' team were B. Williams, A. Cowan, D. McKenna, G. Petie, C. Greisbach, E. Woolley, L. Gibb, B. Vogler, K. Kitching, C. Hughes and B. Bruce.

A co-manager with Dick James was Alec Gibb.

Dressing 'Sheds'

In early years the grounds were unfenced, and there were no dressing sheds. The spectators stood shoulder to shoulder along the side and goal lines, adding to the difficulties of the referee and linesmen by even encroaching onto the filed (to get a better view).

The actual playing fields were fenced in the early 20's – and dressing sheds had to be provided, also, at the same time.

Prior to that, at Bundamba and Blackstone, the teams changed on the creek bank, and many took a 'cool-off' in the creek after the game. At 'Old Reliance' a thick clump of trees on the eastern side of the ground was used; and at Ebbw Vale, trees were also used, near the site of the old dressing shed, and the players at one period had to share the area with Stafford's Beehives.

'Feed the creek' – a barracking cry at Bundamba and Blackstone, in the early days. Then only one ball was used; and it was the advice being given to players when their team, the spectators thought, should have a spell or waste

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time. At Ebbw Vale it was – 'Feed the dam' – there was a large waterhole at the north eastern end of the ground; and at Dinmore it became – 'Feed the bush'.

And that dressing shed at Booval Stars' ground in the 30's – an old railway goods wagon – of course that was in the depression years.

Memories

Quilpie as far as I know is the only native Australian to play soccer in Ipswich – he played for the Rats before World War 1.

Cliff Gedge scoring a penalty for Booval against Bush Rats at Blackstone in 1920.

'Spokes' Pedley not only putting the ball over the bar at Bundamba, but also over a gum tree once growing at the back of the goal at the 'loop line' end.

Bunny Nunn scoring at Blackstone for Saints with a diving header from a 'Digger' Kelly cross. Bunny was completely air-borne and almost horizontal when he made contact with the ball.

Spencer Kitching running through a New South Wales team at the start of an interstate match at the Gabba and scoring from 20 metres out.

Col Kitching brilliantly and cooly working the ball past the 'Hearts' goalkeeper at the Exhibition Ground.

Andy Duce 'bullocking' his way through a New South Wales team at Bundamba to score, and play himself into the State side.

Jack Routledge's clearance kicks as a full back for Rangers.

'Wig' James, in the twilight of his career, making a run from inside his own half at Ebbw Vale, beating practically all of the opposition to score for Saints.

A saint Helens match v. Y.M.C.A. at Ebbw Vale just after World War II. What a match! The final score was 7 to 6 for Y.M.'s. In the second half it was goal for goal, first one side then the other with fans barracking their heads off. Y.M.'s had two Dutch Indonesian – Florentinus and Van Rannenberg – they added greatly to the glamour of the match.

In 1888, Newtown and Bundamba schools played Australian football; and in 1912 school soccer was very strong in the Dinmore area.

"Warrego" Denton, a goal keeper for Bundamba who travelled from Tannymorel, a coal mining centre near Warwick, to play each week-end.

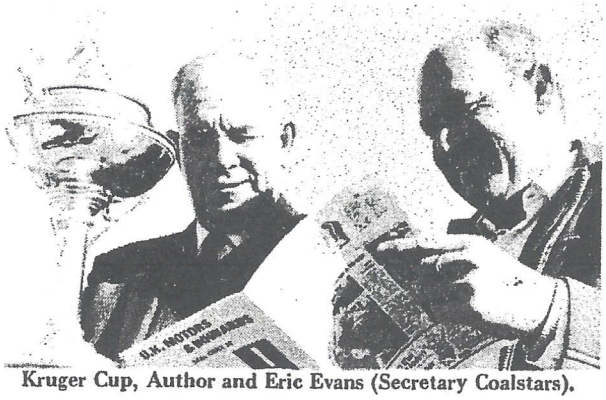
The bespectacled George Long, A Brisbane journalist, playing as an inside forward for Bundamba in the early 20's. He was later the Rugby League writer for a Brisbane paper.

Saints in 1925 played a 'wharfies' team at Ebbw Vale – a 2 all draw.

The McGregor Cup – first played for between Brisbane and Ipswich at schoolboy level – is still played for annually – and it is the orginal cup.

The ant's nest in the middle of Ebbw Vale field. A fall there brought a player quickly to his feet.

Joe Laimer's 'magie' liniment. Any injured Ranger's player recovered miraculously when Joe was called on to the field. In his dry, inherited, Scottish wit, said Alan Gibb "His cure was worse than the injury".



Kruger Cup, Author and Eric Evans (Secretary Coalstars).

Team Formations

In writing a history of soccer, one fact strikes home; the grouping of players today, is vastly different from that of yesteryear. Even the naming of positions has changed. Today, there are defenders, midfielders, and strikers, in varying dormations of 4.3.3, 4.4.2 etc. depending on whether the coach is using defensive or offensive tactics.

But the form, as we once knew it, was 2.3.5. Two full backs, three half backs, and five forwards – outside right, inside right, centre forward, inside left and outside left. And they had pretty well defined areas of the field in which to operate, with the two wingers and the centre forward generally being required to retreat no further than half-way. The centre half was the pivot of the whole team, he was possibly the most worked player, but most of his work came to him.

The man, I believe, credited with the introduction of the third game (the centre half became a central defender) was Tom Whittaker, a full back from Arsenal, a member of the first English side to visit Australia in 1925.
He was injured on the tour (I think at Wollongong) and did not play again. He later became manager of Arsenal, and introduced the new defensive measure. One of his disciples, was Bernard Joy, an amateur who played for Arsenal, and he showed Queenslanders how to play it in the Test Match at the Exhibition Ground in July, 1937.

As far as Ipswich is concerned, credit for this change must go to Dan Roderick. Selected as centre-half for Queensland, in a match played against New South Wales in 1948, on the advice of the Queensland coach, Jack Revie, Dan played as a third man in defense, and it was his ability that left the final score 3 to 2 in favour of New South Wales in that match, and saw Queensland a few days later under floodlight on the Exhibition Ground, hold New South Wales to a 3 all draw. A remarkable performance, considering that Queensland had been beaten 11 goals to 2 by New South Wales in Sydney, and by 4 goals to nil in Newcastle earlier in the season.

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Anecdotes

TWO AUSTRALIAN CAPTAINS MEET:

This occurred in 1928 and was the occasion of the visit of a New South Wales team to Ipswich. This New South Wales team contained George Smith (the policeman centre-forward who scored many a goal with his head from Roy Crowhurst's crosses) 'Jamito' Hogan, and Archie Cameron. The manager was Sid Storey who a couple of years earlier had captained Australia against England. Ipswich officials were at Bedford's Railway Hotel, opposite the Reserve, where the match was to be played, when a gentleman came in and asked if Sid Storey was there. He was, and a happy reunion eventuated. Both had attended the same Sydney school, and both had captained Australia. The other chap? Oh! That was Jimmy Craig of Rugby League fame.

TWO BROKEN LEGS:

Two broken legs in the one clash at Blackstone 60 years ago. Rovers were at home and Rangers were defending strongly. A long clearance kick to midway between Rover's goal and the halfway flag saw 'Hockey' Mathewson; Ranger's right winger and Pat Jones, Blackstone's keeper, race for the ball. They reached it simultaneously; both kicked at it, and two legs broken (one each).

At Toowong in 1928 – St. Helens v. Toowong in a B. Senior match.

An attack by Saints saw Billy Nunn race down the right wing. His cross was somewhat ill-directed – it rolled towards the goals. The keeper moved out, not to pick it up, but to kick it. Just at the crucial moment a fox terrier also raced for the ball. The keeper missed the ball (and the dog), but the ball rolled on between the posts – a goal for Saints.

A feature of Thistle's matches against Bundamba and Blackstone in the 20's was their visit to Ipswich – the team and supporters – in a McKeen Car.

The car, perhaps the forerunner of rail motors, would be diverted on to the "loop" line and "park" near the grounds. The visiting team used it also as a dressing room, and their supporters added to their barracking with rotating wooden rattles.

A "Q.T." REPORT IN 40'S:

Alan Gibb had a heavy day on Saturday. Playing at inside left, he was charged over five times running in the first half, had the top kicked from a boil, and tore his shorts. "I'm not worried about getting knocked down, as long as I can keep getting up", said Alan at half time.

SOME 'HEADING':

Cec ('Skinny') Brittain, at one time in the 30's played for Ipswich. His team, then Oxley, was in the Ipswich competition. The story goes that a visitor went to the family's brickyards looking for Cec. The 'character' who directed his said, "He's just around the corner; you'll know him easily; he's the one 'heading' the bricks into the stack as they throw them from the truck".

THE SACK:

A 5-a-side match (a final) at the Racecourse ground before World War 1. A minute to play, and a disputed goal. Bob Lawrie's dad, a mine manager, and one of the players, realising the referee was employed at his pit, said "If you don't award the goal, you are sacked on Monday".

A GOAL POST TALE:

At Ebbw Vale in 1928. A Dinmore Wanderers Junior team played their home matches at Ebbw Vale. Grass cutting of the pitch was a problem for the clubs – no small machine mowers in those days. The two fixtures were Wanderers v. Rosebells and the B. Senior match Saint Helens v. Wilston.

Saint Helens claimed that as Wanderers had not paid their share of the grass cutting costs, they were not to play. What an arguement ensured. One of Saints' committeemen, 'Digger' Stirling, removed the cross bar, and was preparing to uproot the goal posts when he was stopped by Tommy Malcolmson's father. Tom was a Wanderers' player and his Dad was one of the ground trustees. Tom had made a dash over the railway line to get his Dad.

Wiser counsel prevailed, then – the cross bar was replaced and the Junior game went on – a little late. But the irony of it all. Saint Helens didn't get a game. The opposition did not turn up.

Back Row (L-R):
C. Kitching
S. Kitching
W. Jenkins
K. Kitching
G. Petie
D. Coleman (Trainer)
K. Phillips
B. Parkes
J. Auld (Committee)
R. Rule
R. Jones
R. Millar (Committee)

Second Row:
N. Harris (Committee)
G. Kathage
K. Maker (Committee)
M. Berry (Asst. Sec.)
K. Brown
W. Dixon (Committee)

Sitting:
D. Williams (Treasurer)
D. Smyly
W. Lawrie (President)
R. Lawrie (Captain)
W. Mitchell (Secretary)
N. Rule (Vice Capt.)
G. Kitching (Manager)

In Front:
W. Kitching (Ball Boy)
G. Kitching (Mascot)

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